

Government Calls for Collaboration to Measure Innovation

Department of Commerce <http://www.doc.gov/> (1/18) announced steps for the federal statistical agencies and others to work to explain and quantify one of the largest and most elusive drivers of the economy—innovation. Among the innovation measurement initiatives announced were comprehensive accounting of the effect of high-tech goods and services, measuring the increase in productivity due to increased investments in innovation, and expanding collection of data on innovation.

BEA will design a supplemental innovation account by January 2009. This account will be a framework for directly measuring how much of the overall increase in productivity is due to increased investments in innovation. It will include investments in intellectual property (including patents, copyrights, and trademarks) and in human capital. In addition to directly measuring the impact of innovation on growth, such a measure would take into account the fact that knowledge, just like other property, is wealth—and those policies that increase knowledge increase the wealth of our society.

“One of the guiding principles endorsed by the Advisory Committee was that innovation data collection efforts should build on the way firms assess the effectiveness of their innovative activities. Individual firms, trade associations and other organizations are important partners in developing and testing innovation measures.” Download Innovation Measurement <http://www.innovationmetrics.gov/> .